Cellular Telephone System

3149. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to start Cellular Telephone Communications System in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria followed for selecting the subscribers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tenders for providing cellular mobile telephone services in the Metro cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras have been invited.

(c) Does not arise at this stage as the service is yet to be introduced.

Import of Newsprint

3150. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow newspaper owners to import newsprint; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Government have decided, in principle, to decanalise the import of newsprint with effect from 1st April, 1992.

(b) The import of newsprint will be governed by Import–Export Policy that will come into force with effect from April 1, 1992.

[*Translation*]

Agra Airport as International Airport

3151. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Agra Airport into an international airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing five international airports viz. Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras & Trivandrum, are sufficient to cater to current traffic needs.

[*English*]

Amount Allocated to Kerala for Generation of Electricity

3152. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Kerala for the generation of power in 1991;

(b) the electricity supplied to Kerala from the Central Pool in 1991; and

(c) the quantum of electricity proposed

to be supplied during 1992 from Central Pool in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The approved outlay of Kerala for Annual Plan 1991–92 for power sector is Rs. 154.80 crores.

(b) The drawal of energy by Kerala from Central power stations in the Southern region in 1990–91 was 1361.7 MU.

(c) The drawal of energy by Kerala from Central power stations in the Southern region in 1991–92 (upto February, 1992) is 1737.7 MU.

Tungstons Reserves in Maharashtra

3153. SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rich reserves of tungstons is available in district Nagpur, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for setting up a factory there for carrying out the purification process of tungstons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) At Khobna, Nagpur district, Maharashtra, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) have estimated a reserve of 3.04 million tonnes of tungsten ore with 0.313% WO3 for the main lense and a reserve of possible category of 0.32 million tonnes with 0.218% WO3 for the Southern lense.

Geological Survey of India (GSI) have estimated a reserve of 2.234 million tonnes of tungsten ore with 0.043 to 0.062% WO3 in Agargaon area, Nagpur district, Maharashtra. Detailed exploration of the area by MECL have been planned.

(b) Exploitation of the deposits can be considered after their techno–economic feasibility is established.

Arrears of Share cost of Sardar Sarovar Project

3154. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
DR. K.D. JESWANI:
SHRI SANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI DILEEP BHAI SHANGHANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has approached the Union Government in regard to the payment of arrears of share of expenditure of Sardar Sarovar Project by the Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The issue regarding the payment of share cost of Sardar Sarovar Project to the Government of Gujarat by the Party States has been discussed in the Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee meetings from time to time and States have been apprised of the need for immediate settlement of disputed claims and early payment of outstanding dues to the Government of Gujarat, in terms of Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award.